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THE 1939 FARM PROGRAM IN THE MIDWESTERN
STATES

A transcribed radio talk (recorded January 25, 1939) by Claude Wickard, Director, North Central Division, Agricultural Adjustment Administration.

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KADDERLY:

The rest of February and the early part of March is an extremely important period for Midwestern farmers. If you are to get the full benefit of the Triple-A program there is one thing you need to do NOW. We are going to hear about this point from a man who has himself been a Corn Belt farmer for many years and who now directs the Triple A Farm Program in the North Central States. This man is Claude Wickard. Mr. Wickard.

WICKARD:

This is Triple-A sign-up time. The 1939 program is ready to go. The allotments are out. The next step is up to the farmer. I want to explain what the sign-up means to you as a farmer and also what it means to the whole country.

What do we mean by "sign-up time?" The 1939 program provides that every farmer make it known right away if he intends to take part. The farmer does this by working out and signing his Triple-A farm plan. This plan shows his acreage allotments and payments for full cooperation. With this farm plan you can work out before planting time just how to cooperate on your own farm.

Remember that when you sign the farm plan, it doesn't BIND you to cooperate. But you have to sign it if you want to cooperate. Remember too, that nobody can earn a Triple-A payment in 1939 unless he does sign up in advance. And nobody can get a government corn loan or any other commodity loan unless he signs up, and then cooperates in the program.

BUT here is the important part: The farm plan helps the farmer plan his 1939 cropping operations so he can conserve his soil and improve his income at the same time. This is the best farm program we have ever had - it is ready earlier than ever before and it can really work to make farming a going business. It will work if we as farmers take part in it and make it work.

The program offers you a good business proposition. Let's look at that side of the program for a minute. If you have a corn acreage allotment, you can earn a payment of 14 to 15 cents a bushel on the normal yield of your allotment. You earn this 14 to 15 cents a bushel by planting within your corn acreage allotment.

If you have a wheat acreage allotment, and plant within it, you'll earn a payment of 27 to 29 cents a bushel.

Whether or not you have a corn or wheat acreage allotment, you'll have a total soil-depleting acreage allotment. You'll receive a conservation payment for keeping your 1939 acreage of soil-depleting crops within this allotment.

Besides these payments based on acreage allotments, you can earn soil-building payments for such things as applying ground limestone, seeding alfalfa, and terracing. Ranchers can earn payments by carrying out range-building practices, and farmers with small allotments can earn their entire payments by soil-building practices.

These payments that I've been talking about are not the only benefits that come to cooperators. They are eligible for corn loans and wheat loans and for federal all-risk wheat crop insurance.

The farm program this year is ready for you early. The committeemen you elected have done a fine job. You can get complete information about the allotments and payments and other details from your Triple-A committeemen well before planting time. I hope you'll make it a point to see one of your committeemen.

And I hope you'll sign up and take part in the program. By doing so, you'll be cooperating with other farmers to do these four things: You'll conserve the soil on your farm. You'll help yourself and other farmers produce a supply that will give you a decent return. You'll help maintain an ever-normal granary. You'll earn a substantial addition to your farm income. There's no other way I know of to do as much good for yourself, for agriculture, and for the Nation.

KADDERLY:

Ladies and gentlemen, Claude Wickard, who directs the Triple-A farm program in the North Central Region, has discussed with you the importance of signing up now to take part in the 1939 farm program. Let me repeat that signing up does not bind you to take part in the program. But no one can receive a Triple-A payment or loan unless he does fill out and sign his farm plan and cooperate in the program. For more information, apply to your county Triple-A office.

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